

**COMMISSION ON AGING
GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES**

Monday, October 20, 2025 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

455 County Center; Redwood City, CA 94063

Members present: Maria Barr, Twila Dependahl, David Linnell, Monika Lee, Irene Liana, Bill Lock, Martin Nakai, Deborah Owdom, Liz Taylor, Ellen Tafeen, Kathy Uhl, Ophelie Vico

Members excused: Patty Clement, Karen Coppock, Angela Gianini, Daniela Jonguitud

Public Attendance (In Person): Bill Silverfarb, Michael Richardson, Carolyn Wilson, Stephanie Figeira

Public Attendance (Virtual): Christina Irving, Francine Serafin Dickson, Jonathan, Melissa Nihei, Pam Wong, Sandra Winter, Wtlis, Gabriela Flores, Maya Baltinester, Elyse Brummer, Alejandra Sanchez

Staff Attendance: Lee Pullen, Anna Sawamura, Shawne O'Connell, Melissa Sanchez

ITEM	DISCUSSION
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Chair Lee.
2. Pledge of Allegiance	Pledge of allegiance conducted.
3. Roll Call	Roll call conducted and quorum was established.
4. Introductions of Members of the Public	Chair Lee welcomed all in attendance both in person and virtually. There were two legislative aides present from Supervisors Canepa's office.
5. Oral Communication	None.
6. Approval of today's agenda, 10.20.2025	Motion to approve by 2nd Vice Chair Linnell. Seconded by Commissioner Barr. Motion passed.
7. Approval of minutes from 09.08.2025	Motion to approve by 1 st Vice Chair Liana. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion passed.
8. Update on Board of Supervisor activities	<u>Update on Board of Supervisor (BoS) activities regarding items concerning older adults.</u> Legislative Aide Michael Richardson reported the following: • Hike for Loneliness is based on the loneliness initiative. 65 participants showed up last week at the Sawyer Camp Trail. • Their next event is a follow up event to their Loneliness to Light initiative in about two weeks. • Next event is a series at the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA. Last year they brought an author of a book about loneliness and it's a connection to owning pets and having a pet companion in life. Participants will be able to adopt a pet at this event.
9. Committee Ad Hoc reports	<u>Executive Committee</u> – Chair Lee reported the following: • Chair Lee attended an AARP workshop last month in Oakland. Chair Lee met the Santa Clara County Seniors Agenda person who is running their county wide age friendly efforts. Chair Lee reached out to her recently asking if she would be willing to give an update on what is happening in her county but there has been no response yet. • The IRCE Committee is working on collecting information about age



friendly work plans that various cities in our county have submitted to the AARP. 13 cities have made their own work plan so far.

- CAFE is sponsoring an event on November 12th in Brisbane and there will be a few representatives from some cities that will give updates on their projects.
- **Action Item:** Review and discussion took place regarding content of letter to Supervisor Canepa requesting representation at CoA general meetings. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Linnell, seconded by Commissioner Uhl. Roll call vote: 10 yes, 2 abstentions: Commissioner Barr and Taylor. Motion passed. Letter will be sent to Supervisor Canepa's Office.
- Chair Lee reports the Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and 2nd Vice Chair positions are open for election for 2026. The Nominating Committee will contact all commissioners and find out whether they are interested in any of the officer positions. The nominating committee will report and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for them to decide how to present the results to the Commission. Elections are open until they happen at the next CoA General Meeting. Commissioners will have a chance to give their nominations and self-nominations before a vote is taken.
- Commissioner Dependahl and Commissioner Uhl will form the Nominating Committee. A motion to approve by Chair Lee and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion passed. The Nominating Committee members cannot participate in an office position for 2026.
- Staff Liaison Anna Sawamura reports that the slate of officers needs to be ready to present to the Executive Committee on November 3rd and election will happen on November 10th at the CoA General Meeting.

Information, Resources, and Community Engagement Committee –
Commissioner Owdom reported the following:

- Commissioner Owdom is completing the final review of the Help@Home guide to bring to the subcommittee.

Aging Readiness and Family Caregiver Support Committee –
Commissioner Dependahl reported the following:

- Commissioner Dependahl has not talked to the co-chairs since the last meeting.

Social Isolation and Transportation Committee –
1st Vice Chair Liana reported the following:

- 1st Vice Chair Liana reports that Director Lee updated the committee on RDA and the process going forward.
- SamTrans reported to the committee that the Mobility Ambassadors will be available at set locations. SamTrans now has a 24-hour calling line with weekends included.
- Committee was invited to the Paratransit Advisory Council Retreat. Commissioners Taylor, Uhl, and Liana attended. Each commissioner participated in one of the groups: member recruitment and education, service quality and improvement, policy initiatives and advocacy. Commissioner Uhl is a representative and attends meetings on a



	monthly basis. • Adele Ryono will present at the next CoA General Meeting about the intergenerational study she is leading. <u>Ad Hoc Help@Home Workgroup</u> Commissioner Owdom reported the following: • Commissioners submitted their portion of the Help@Home section. Commissioner Owdom is incorporating most of them. <u>Ad Hoc Advocacy Workgroup</u> • No report provided.
10. Member Reports	• Commissioner Dependahl attended the Behavioral Health Services Act Transition Task Force 4th meeting. It is tasked with reaching out to the community in regard to what services and programs that the county will spend money on from the state funding. It is part of Proposition 1. The task force couldn't name who they met in regard to other adults' program and services. • Commissioner Uhl reported that 102-year-old Ed Bordenave received the French Legion of Honor medal for representing the U.S. in D-Day. He currently resides in Westborough Royale assisted living facility in South San Francisco. Commissioner Uhl would like Ed Bordenave to get recognition from the Commission on Aging. David Linnell volunteered to write the letter. The letter will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting and if approved there, on behalf of the commission it will be mailed. • Commissioner Barr reports she contacted her section of the Help at Home booklet, and everyone spoke highly of the Commission on Aging. • Commissioner Vico attended the Kaiser Aging Well Summit in Oakland on October 7th. Supervisor Canepa was on the panel presenting on reducing isolation and being more in the community. The Commission on Aging is on the right track on the work being done in the Transportation and Isolation Committee. • Commissioner Owdom serves as a Senior Senator on the California Senior Legislature (CSL). On Tuesday, 10/21/25, and on Wednesday, 10/22/25, she will be participating via Zoom all day for the presentation of the pieces of legislation that have been submitted for consideration. They will vote on the top 10, and these will be sent to the real California Senior Legislation for their consideration to move forward. The most recent one that has passed is allowing participation of the commissioner meetings via Zoom. She would like to propose that the Commission on Aging seek another person to serve on the CSL as the Assembly Member representing San Mateo County. Staff Liaison Anna Sawamura will reach out to the person that was appointed and if that is unsuccessful, then will follow up with CSL on how to get through the process.
11. CoA Outreach Update	No report.
12. Staff Report	Director Pullen reported the following: • There is a federal shutdown that has caused funding to be frozen at the federal level for the Older Americans Acts programs. We are



	asking providers to proceed “business as usual” and have communicated that the county and the state will continue with reserves through December. • AARP reached out to ADS a few months ago and are working with them to have a workshop presentation on scams. The AARP SCAM JAM event will be held on December 4th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Jewish Community Center in Foster City. • Help at Home guide is ready to be an online tool. • Next month five staff from ADS will be attending the annual California Association of Agencies on Aging conference in Orange County.
13. Announcements	• Commissioner Dependahl is working on the holiday gathering in December at Jacks on December 8th at 11:00 AM. Commissioner Dependahl will send an email to the Commission to reserve the date and time.
14. Stretch Break	There was a 10-minute stretch break
15. Presentation from County Legislative Priorities and Advocacy	• Presentation by Chief Legislative Officer with the County Executive’s Office, where she leads the Intergovernmental and Public Affairs Unit, Connie Juarez-Diroll.
16. Adjourn	Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Linnell and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.